

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

Lester Breslow, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, State Department of Public Health

A REVIEW COMMITTEE has recommended sites for the establishment of two regional dialysis centers for the treatment of patients with chronic uremia. The group has recommended the centers be located in San Francisco General Hospital and the Los Angeles County General Hospital.

Initially, dialysis services will be provided at each facility for 30 patients in the hospital and 20 patients living at home. At the centers, training will be given to medical and nursing personnel who will carry out dialysis services in other parts of the state. Close cooperation with other medical specialists who are seeking ways to develop successful means of kidney transplantation will be developed and maintained.

The Legislature in its last session authorized the State Health Department to establish the regional centers, with the Bureau of Chronic Disease responsible for implementing the program. The two institutions were recommended in compliance with terms of the legislation authorizing the centers—that they be located in a metropolitan area and have affiliation with a large hospital that has a full range of medical, surgical and rehabilitative services.

Site visits will be made shortly by teams representing the State Departments of Public Health and Rehabilitation, an outstanding authority in chronic hemodialysis, a member of the Review Committee and a person expert in financial matters.

The teams will determine whether the recommended institutions can develop dialysis centers as described in the legislation. As soon as approval of the centers by the site teams is given, final negotiations between the prospective centers and the two state departments will be completed.

The centers will be established and become operational as soon as possible. Announcement will be made in *CALIFORNIA MEDICINE* just before the centers begin to accept patients.

The State Health Department has just completed its new Data Processing Center in quarters located at 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, where it has a Spectra 70 Computer and a staff of 70.

The new machine is one of the first of the new generation of computers to be installed in the San Francisco Bay Area. These machines are many times more powerful than the famous UNIVAC I which was the wonder of the scientific world only a dozen years ago.

Spectra 70 will be used for operations throughout the department, but its biggest job will be in work toward the improvement of medical care for Californians. It will also be used in air pollution studies, vital statistics and cancer research studies.

Before acquiring its own machine, the department since 1959 had used the computers at the University of California for studies into the causes of cancer, heart disease and other health problems.